

Milk River Bridge at Coburg  
Spanning the Milk River  
Coburg Vicinity  
Blaine County  
Montana

HAER No. MT-4

HAER  
MONT,  
3 - COBU,  
1 -

PHOTOGRAPHS

WRITTEN HISTORICAL AND DESCRIPTIVE DATA

Historic American Engineering Record  
National Park Service  
Department of the Interior  
Washington, D.C. 20240

ADDENDUM  
FOLLOWS

HISTORIC AMERICAN ENGINEERING RECORD

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Location: Spanning the Milk River on local road 194, southeast of Coburg, Blaine County, Montana.

Date of Construction: 1916

Present Owner: Blaine County  
Blaine County Courthouse  
Chinook, Montana 59523

Present Use: Vehicular Bridge

Significance: This single span, pin-connected Camelback through truss (with subdivided members) was erected in 1916 by O.E. Peppard of Missoula, Montana, and is the only existing timber structure of this type in the State. The through truss has a span length of 173 feet, is 17 feet wide and has a vertical clearance of 14 feet. Located east of Coburg, the bridge afforded a crossing of the Milk River for residents of the Fort Belknap Indian Reservation. The truss is constructed as follows: the lower chords and hip verticals are forged steel eyebars; some of the verticals are subdivided and consist of timber beams or eyebars; the remaining verticals are timber beams; the counters are eyebars and the upper chords are constructed with timber beams. The timber plank deck and timber stringers are supported by timber floor beams which are connected to the superstructure with "U-bolts." The upper lateral bracing consists of an upper and lower lateral strut, constructed with timber beams, and sway bracing is provided with steel rods. The entire structure rests on concrete abutments with wingwalls. The structure shows signs of age as the steel members are rusted, the decking is in poor condition and the load limit is now posted at three tons.

Transmitted by: Kevin Murphy, Historian HAER, 1984; from data compiled by Greg Fitzsimons, 1979

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XEROGRAPHIC COPIES OF COLOR TRANSPARENCIES

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National Park Service  
U.S. Department of the Interior  
Washington, D.C. 20013